

Minnesota Overview

Background and Purpose

The Minnesota Legislature authorized the Department of Human Services to seek and implement a DMIE grant (2003 Laws of MN, 1st Special Session, Chapter 14, Article 6, sec. 65). In Minnesota, approximately one million people experience a diagnosable mental illness in a given year. Due to poor access to appropriate health care services and appropriate employment supports, many individuals with serious mental illness are forced to leave their jobs when their impairment progresses to the point where they are no longer able to work. Accordingly, Minnesota elected to serve workers with serious mental illness. In early 2005, CMS notified Minnesota that it had been awarded a DMIE grant.

Minnesota's DMIE will research the following key questions:

- What effect does integrating the delivery of health care services and non-medical employment supports have on the progression and severity of potentially disabling conditions?
- Does the use of evidence-based practices delay or prevent an anticipated decline in a worker's function?
- Is the achievement of employment-related goals an important component of mental health recovery?
- Is person-centered employment planning effective in enabling people to retain employment and reduce the need for public assistance programs?

Minnesota's Demonstration

Minnesota's DMIE is designed to serve approximately 1,500 employed people with a serious mental illness that could lead to a long term disability. The DMIE efforts will be targeted in three regions of the state: Hennepin County, Ramsey County, and St. Louis County/North Shore region. Enrollees will have access to the health care services that are available in Minnesota's Medicaid State Plan benefit set. The health care services will be delivered through one or more contracted pre-paid health plans. DMIE enrollees will be required to pay a sliding scale premium based on their income. DMIE participants will also be able to receive individually tailored employment supports.

The DMIE award occurs in two phases. In the initial phase, the state has initial federal authorization and funding to develop the operational and evaluation protocols that are necessary to implement the Demonstration. Once the protocols have been submitted and CMS approves them, Minnesota is eligible to receive \$42 million in funding for the health care services, employment supports, and ongoing Demonstration operations.

Demonstration Timeline

Enrollment of individuals is tentatively scheduled to begin in spring 2006. Federal appropriations for the Demonstration are currently scheduled to end in September 2009, there are indications that these may be extended for another two years.

Anticipated Outcomes:

Minnesota's DMIE will work to evaluate outcomes that include:

- The employment stability of participants;
- Improved job performance;
- Diminished symptoms of mental illness;

- Better health management;
- Access to employer-sponsored health benefits.
- The benefits of flexible person-centered supports for employees managing a serious mental illness;
- Improved quality of life; and
- Improved data on how employees access support services over time.

Two other states, Louisiana and Kansas, have also been awarded Demonstration grants. Minnesota will seek to coordinate some of its evaluation efforts with the other two grantee states.

Status of the DMIE Implementation Activities:

- An internal DHS design and coordinating work team has been formed to develop a comprehensive plan to develop and implement the DMIE across policy, eligibility, health care purchasing, and administrative systems within the Department.
- A project manager has been hired to oversee the design and implementation of the DMIE.
- In preparation for full implementation of the DMIE in 2006, DHS has begun to document and analyze the internal business processes that will become the basis of an operational protocol for the DMIE.
- Data readiness and analysis efforts have been initiated to evaluate the current Department capacity to gather and analyze the data necessary for the research initiative.
- Dr. Karen Linkins and her team from the Lewin Group have been contracted to provide an independent evaluation of the design and impact of the demonstration project.
- Outreach activities that focus on reaching employed individuals with a serious mental illness accessing two other Minnesota Health Care Programs - MinnesotaCare and General Assistance Medical Care are being planned.
- Additional contacts with community stakeholders have been initiated for further recommendations on DMIE outreach efforts.
- Information about the DMIE has been shared with health plans and community mental health service providers that may become partners in the initiative. It is anticipated that the formal Request for Proposals (RFPs) will be issued in fall 2005.

Seeking More Information?

For additional information on the DMIE, please contact Dan McCarthy, Project Manager at 651-582-1959 or dan.mccarthy@state.mn.us.